

Message Text

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FOR NEA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MILI, LY
SUBJECT: US-LIBYAN RELATIONS

REF: TRIPOLI 0095

1. CURRENT PREOCCUPATIONS MAY SOMEWHAT DELAY FURTHER LIBYAN REACTION TO RECENT US DECISIONS ON AIRCRAFT SALES AND SERVICES. IT SEEMS PRUDENT, HOWEVER, THAT WE LOSE LITTLE TIME IN SHAPING US POSTURE TOWARD LIBYA FOR NEAR FUTURE AND CONSIDER LONGER RANGE ASPECTS OF RELATIONSHIP.

2. A MAJOR LONG RUN PROBLEM IS MASSIVE US PURCHASES OF LIBYAN OIL. IN 1977 PURCHASES REACHED ALMOST \$3.9 BILLION (OVER ONE THIRD OF TOTAL INCOME) AND LEFT US WITH A BILATERAL TRADE DEFICIT OF ALMOST \$3.5 BILLION, THE LARGEST US DEFICIT IN MIDDLE EAST. ASIDE FROM BALANCE OF PAYMENT PROBLEM, OIL INCOME IS OVERRIDING FACTOR IN LIBYAN ABILITY TO BUY ARMS FROM EAST AND WEST EUROPE AND ELSEWHERE AND TO FINANCE LIBERATION AND/OR TERRORIST MOVEMENTS AROUND THE WORLD.

3. IN SHORT RUN WE EXPECT THAT MANY OF LIBYAN

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ESTABLISHMENT WILL ACCEPT WITH RESIGNATION CUTOFF OF SUPPORT FOR C-130'S. REACTION OF AIR FORCE COMMANDER FARJANI TO LOCKHEED TEAM CHIEF AND INDICATIONS FILTERING BACK FROM OTHERS SUGGEST GENERAL REALIZATION THAT QADHAFI'S CURRENT POLICIES AND CONTINUED ABUSE OF US MADE CONTINUATION OF ANY MILITARY RELATIONSHIP IMPOSSIBLE. THOUGH QADHAFI WILL LIKELY SEEK TO PUNISH

US (REFTEL) IT IS NOT ISSUE ON WHICH HE CAN EXPECT TO RALLY LIBYANS TO HIS BANNER. DENIAL OF COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT SALES WILL PROBABLY BE HARDER FOR LIBYAN ESTABLISHMENT TO ACCEPT. LIBYANS MUST NOW FEAR THAT OUR NEXT STEP WILL BE TO DENY SPARES FOR ITS COMMERCIAL FLEET OF BOEING 727'S. NOT ONLY ARE LIBYANS USED TO SEPARATING POLITICS FROM BUSINESS BUT DENIAL COULD BE PERCEIVED AS ATTEMPT TO HUMILIATE LIBYA. QADHAFI, THEREFORE, MIGHT FIND MORE GENERAL SUPPORT SHOULD HE CHOOSE TO PUBLICIZE THIS ISSUE.

4. FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE WE WOULD APPRECIATE MORE GUIDANCE FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH ALLIES AND FRIENDS AS WELL ANTICIPATED TALKS WITH LIBYAN GOVT ON FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. IS DECISION ON COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT SALES IRREVERSIBLE AND WHAT MUST LIBYA DO TO GET OFF OUR BLACK LIST?

B. WHAT RECENT AND SPECIFIC EVIDENCE OF LIBYAN SUPPORT FOR TERRORISM MAY WE CITE? GENERAL ACCUSATIONS ARE IMMEDIATELY REBUFFED BY LIBYANS ON GROUNDS THAT AID TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IS RESPECTABLE AND THAT EVEN US MAINTAINS CONTACT WITH AFRICANS AND OTHERS WHO IN BYGONE DAYS WERE LABELED TERRORISTS.

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C. DOES SUGGESTION THAT US IS WILLING TO HEAR FURTHER VIEWS OF LIBYAN GOVT MEAN THAT HIGHER LEVEL CONTACTS IN PERHAPS N.Y. OR TRIPOLI COULD BE CONSIDERED?
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